

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 31 were pending in the present application for patent as of the Office Action of June 24, 2005. In the Office Action of June 24, 2005, the Examiner, rejected claims 17 - 23 under 35 U.S.C. 101, rejected claims 10 and 17 - 23 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejected claims 1 - 17 and 19 - 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,188,686, Smith, and rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,760,328, Ofek.

Claims 17 - 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, the applicants have amended claims 18 - 21 and 23 to depend on apparatus claim 16 instead of method claim 15. The applicants believe that the amendments to claims 18 - 21 and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 10 and 17 - 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, the applicants have amended claims 10, 18 - 21, and 23 in a manner believed to overcome the section 112 based rejections.

Claims 1 - 17 and 19 - 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith. The applicants have amended claims 1, 14, 24, 25, and 27 to claim, generally, that the serial ports provide the timing and synchronization signals of the data transmissions. Claim 16 has been amended to claim generally that the serial port provides data at a clock rate corresponding to the clock rate the serial device. Also, claim 5 has been amended to delete subject matter added to claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to claim that the timing and frame synchronization signals are transmitted separately from the data transmissions. Claim 27 has been amended to change it from an independent claim to a dependent claim dependent on claim 14. Claims 28 - 29 and 31 have been amended to conform them to amended claim 27. Claim 30 has been canceled.

Smith does not show or suggest the serial ports providing timing and synchronization for the data transmissions as claimed in amended claims 1, 14, 24, 25, and 27. Also, Smith does not show or suggest that the serial port provide data at the data rate of the serial device. In Smith, the switching controller 20 of FIG. 2 provides the timing information for data transmissions (column 16, lines 44 - 49). In Smith the data is held in memories 24 or 26 of input portions 2

(FIG. 2 and FIG. 3) until the switching apparatus 10 is ready to transfer the data. The source of the data in Smith does not appear to control any part of the operation of apparatus 10 once the data is stored in the memories 24 or 26.

Therefore, the applicants believe that claims 1 - 17, 19 - 29, and 31 are allowable over Smith.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Ofek. The applicants believe that claim 18 is allowable over Smith in view of Ofek for at least the reasons given above for regarding the rejection of claims 1 - 17 and 19 - 31.

The applicants have reviewed the art cited by the examiner but not relied upon, and believe that claims 1 - 29 and 31 are allowable over the cited art.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless the applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Believing to have responded to each and every rejection contained in the Office Action mailed June 24, 2005, the applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 29 and 31; thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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